



*We heal and inspire the human spirit.*

**To:** Skilled Nursing Facilities  
**From:** IEHP – Provider Relations  
**Date:** December 1, 2022  
**Subject:** **COVID-19 Isolation in SNF**

Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) would like to notify our Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) partners that effective **December 1, 2022** IEHP will begin authorizing isolation and SNF placement according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated [COVID-19 guidelines](#) released October 5, 2022.

<p align="center"><b>Testing and Quarantine: Newly Admitted and Readmitted Members</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Members residing in a SNF and have been exposed to COVID-19</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Newly admitted residents and residents who have left the facility for &gt;24 hours, regardless of vaccination status, should have a series of three viral tests for SARS-COV-2 infection; immediately upon admission and, if negative, again at 3 days and 5 days after their admission.</li> <li>• Quarantine is <b>not required</b> for newly admitted and readmitted residents, regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Testing and quarantine are <b>not required</b> for hospitalized residents who tested positive for COVID-19 and met criteria for discontinuation of isolation and precautions prior to SNF admission or readmission and are within 30 days of their infection.</li> <li>• SNFs may <b>not require</b> a negative test result prior to accepting a new admission<sup>1</sup> and should prepare to isolate or quarantine new admissions with suspected infection or exposure.</li> <li>• SNFs should consider weekly diagnostic screening of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 transmission at a dialysis center. Residents who leave the facility for dialysis <b>do not need to quarantine</b> in a "yellow-observation" or "yellow-exposed" area.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regardless of vaccination status, all health care providers (HCP) with high-risk exposure and members in close contact, should be tested promptly after exposure (but not earlier than 24 hours) and, if negative, again at three (3) days and (5) days after exposure.</li> <li>• Regardless of their vaccination status, Members who are close contacts should wear personal protective equipment (PPE) but do not need to be quarantined, restricted to their room, or cared for by HCP using PPE.</li> <li>• Post-exposure testing is not generally recommended for HCP or residents who have had SARS-CoV-2 infection in the last 30 days if they remain asymptomatic.</li> <li>• Regardless of vaccination status, residents who test positive and exhibit mild to moderate symptoms should be isolated until: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At least ten (10) days have passed since first symptom onset; AND</li> <li>○ At least twenty-four (24) hours have passed since last fever without use of fever-reducing medications; AND</li> <li>○ Any other symptoms have improved</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Members who test positive for Covid-19 and are asymptomatic should be isolated for ten (10) days following the date of their positive test.</li> </ul>

- For Members requiring isolation for COVID-19 exposure, IEHP will approve Level 3 with revenue code 0193 for five (5) days.
- For Members who test positive, IEHP will require the positive COVID-19 test results and approve revenue code 0164 for ten (10) days.<sup>2</sup>
- IEHP requires medical justification (i.e., nursing notes, vital signs, and COVID lab results) for approval of an isolation extension.
- IEHP requires an order for all levels of care changes before providing an authorization. This includes, but is not limited to, skilled to custodial authorization requests and custodial to skilled care authorization requests.

To view the revised CDPH guidelines, visit: [www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL22.aspx](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL22.aspx)

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found at:  
[www.iehp.org](http://www.iehp.org) > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondence

Questions? Please contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054 or (866) 223-4347.

<sup>1</sup>AFL 20.33-2

<sup>2</sup>AFL 22.07